

Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EA-10

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P R 130335Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9633

INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

CINCPAC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, NZ (HEW SECRETARY WEINBERGER)

SUBJECT: VISIT TO WELLINGTON OF HEW SECRETARY AND MRS. CASPAR
WEINBERGER

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

REF: CANBERRA 2903

1. THE VISIT OF SECRETARY AND MRS. WEINBERGER TO WELLINGTON ON MAY 8 WAS EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL AND WENT OFF WITHOUT A HITCH. THE SECRETARY'S PERSONAL WARMTH, LOW KEY PERSONALITY AND ARTICULATENESS WENT OVER VERY WELL WITH THE NEW ZEALAND OFFICIALS HE MET, INCLUDING ACTING PRIME MINISTER R. J. TIZARD. SECRETARY WEINBERGER WAS ALERT AND FULL OF ENERGY DURING A VERY BUSY DAY IN SPITE OF THE FACT THAT HIS PLANE FROM AUSTRALIA ONLY ARRIVED IN WELLINGTON AT 1:30 A.M. ON MAY 8 RATHER THAN AT 10:20 P.M. THE PREVIOUS EVENING AS SCHEDULED. (THE AUCKLAND PORTION OF THE SECRETARY'S VISIT IS BEING REPORTED BY SEPARATE TELEGRAM PREPARED BY CONGEN WILLIAMS, ALTHOUGH WILLIAMS HAS TOLD ME BY TELEPHONE THAT THE WEINBERGERS MADE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON THEIR AUCKLAND HOSTS.)

2. THE SECRETARY PLACED A WREATH ON THE NATIONAL WAR

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MEMORIAL TO BEGIN HIS DAY IN WELLINGTON AND THIS WAS IN

FACT THE ONLY PART OF THE SCHEDULE DIRECTLY RELATED TO THE GREAT CORAL SEA VICTORY. THE REST OF THE DAY WAS DEVOTED TO CALLS ON THE MINISTERS OF EDUCATION (AMOS), DEFENSE (FRASER), MAORI AFFAIRS (RATA) AND SOCIAL WELFARE (KING), AND A CALL ON THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION TALBOYS. AN APPOINTMENT TO CALL ON ACTING PRIME MINISTER TIZARD WAS CANCELLED AT THE LAST MINUTE DUE TO THE NECESSITY FOR TIZARD'S PRESENCE AT THE ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF THE FEDERATION OF LABOUR. HOWEVER, TIZARD DID ATTEND AND HAD A LENGTHY CHAT WITH SECRETARY WEINBERGER AT A MINISTERIAL LUNCHEON AT THE HOUSE OF PARLIAMENT.

3. THE MINISTERIAL CALLS, WHICH EACH LASTED FOR HALF AN HOUR, WERE EXCELLENT OCCASIONS FOR SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGES. THE MINISTER OF EDUCATION, FOR EXAMPLE, ASKED NUMEROUS QUESTIONS ABOUT ALL PHASES OF EDUCATION IN THE UNITED STATES AND RESPONDED TO MR. WEINBERGER'S INQUIRIES AT LENGTH. ALL NEW ZEALAND MINISTERS AND THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION WERE ASTONISHED AT THE SHEER SIZE OF THE HEW BUDGET AND PARTICULARLY THAT ITS EXPENDITURES OF MORE \$100 BILLION YEARLY EXCEED U.S. DEFENSE DEPARTMENT EXPENDITURES.

4. MR. WEINBERGER TOOK THE OCCASION DURING EACH OF HIS CALLS TO ASSURE NEW ZEALAND THAT THE UNITED STATES WAS NOT WITHDRAWING FROM THE WORLD IN THE AFTERMATH OF VIETNAM, BUT WOULD HONOR ITS OBLIGATIONS TO ITS FRIENDS AND ALLIES. HE MADE ADDITIONAL POINTS THAT THE UNITED STATES REMAINS AN EXTRAORDINARILY POWERFUL COUNTRY ECONOMICALLY AND MILITARILY, THAT THE BATTLE AGAINST INFLATION IS SLOWLY BEING WON, AND THAT, WHILE EMPLOYMENT IS UNFORTUNATELY STILL HIGH, THIS BATTLE WILL ALSO BE WON. MR. WEINBERGER WAS QUIETLY PERSUASIVE, ARTICULATE AND OBVIOUSLY MADE A HIGHLY FAVORABLE IMPRESSION ON THE NEW ZEALAND MINISTERS AND THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION.

5. THE MINISTERS AND MR. TALBOTS LISTENED WITH GREAT INTEREST TO MR. WEINBERGER'S VIEW THAT THE HEW BUDGET IS TOO LARGE. IT WAS NOT THAT MR. WEINBERGER WAS OPPOSED TO SOCIAL PROGRAMS. RATHER, IT WAS HIS POSITION THAT IF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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SUCH PROGRAMS WERE TOO COSTLY NOT ENOUGH MONEY WOULD BE LEFT OVER FOR INVESTMENT IN JOB-MAKING ENTERPRISES.

6. A FINAL POINT MIGHT BE MADE AND THAT IS THAT THE MINISTERIAL LUNCHEON FOR MR. WEINBERGER IS AN EXTRAORDINARY HONOR IN THIS COUNTRY. VERY FEW DISTINGUISHED VISITORS ARE SO HONORED AND THE FACT THAT SUCH A LUNCHEON WAS TENDERED TO MR. WEINBERGER REFLECTS BOTH A HIGH REGARD FOR HIM

AND FOR THE UNITED STATES.
KILLGORE

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